

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 188645

62

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 MBFR-04 EB-11

AID-20 EUR-25 IGA-02 EA-11 /208 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/CEN:MWCOTTER:AF

APPROVED BY ARA-LA/CEN:DLAZAR

NEA/IAI:NBROWN (DRAFT)

ARA-LA/PLC-PM:JAWILLIAMS (DRAFT)

ARA/MEX:APSHANKLE (DRAFT)

ARA/PAF:AESHIPPY (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MILI, MASS

SUBJECT:PRESS REPORTS SALE OF ISRAELI MILITARY EQUIPMENT
TO EL SALVADOR AND MEXICO

1. SEPTEMBER 21 WASHINGTON STAR NEWS PRINTED FOLLOWING
ARTICLE UNDER BY-LINE OF FRED HOFFMAN OF AP: "ISRAEL
SELLS ARMS TO LATIN AMERICA. WHILE BUYING F-4 PHANTOM
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PAGE 02 STATE 188645

JETS AND OTHER SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FROM THE UNITED

STATES, ISRAEL HAS BEEN SELLING ITS OWN ARMS TO CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, PENTAGON SOURCES SAY.

REPORTS REACHING THE PENTAGON TELL OF ISRAELI ARMS DEALS WITH EL SALVADOR AND MEXICO.

"THE ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN OUT BEATING THE DRUM FOR THEIR PRODUCT IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA FOR MONTHS," ONE DEFENSE OFFICIAL SAID.

THE ISRAELIS MANUFACTURE SUCH WEAPONS AS THE GABRIEL SHIP-LAUNCHED MISSILE, THE SHAFRIN AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE, SUB-MARINE GUNS AND A VARIETY OF OTHER ARMS. THEY ALSO HAVE BEEN REPORTED DEVELOPING THEIR OWN JET FIGHTER BOMBERS ADAPTED FROM FRENCH-BUILT MIRAGES THEY OWN.

WITH CONGRESS STRICTLY LIMITING U.S. ARMS SALES TO LATIN AMERICA, OTHER NATIONS HAVE CONCENTRATED EFFORTS THERE. FRANCE HAS BECOME A MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIER TO LATIN AMERICAN

NATIONS, ALONG WITH BRITAIN AND ITALY.

PENTAGON SOURCES SAID THAT PRESIDENT ARMANDO ARTURO MOLINA RECENTLY TOLD A GROUP OF EL SALVADOR MILITARY OFFICERS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO BUY ABOUT 25 JET FIGHTERS, TRANSPORTS AND TRAINERS FROM ISRAEL. THIS WOULD GIVE EL SALVADOR ITS FIRST JET FIGHTERS.

ACCORDING TO ANOTHER REPORT, ISRAEL HAS SOLD FIVE ARAVA SHORT-TAKEOFF AND LANDING PLANES TO MEXICO. A SMALL GROUP OF MEXICAN PILOTS AND MECHANICS ARE SAID TO HAVE UNDERGONE TRAINING IN ISRAEL.

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SKETCHY REPORTS OF AN ISRAELI ARMS DEAL WITH NICARAGUA SOME TIME AGO, BUT U.S. OFFICIALS WERE UNCERTAIN OF ITS STATUS.

ISRAEL ALSO IS REPORTEDLY OFFERING ARMS FOR SALE IN EUROPE AND ASIA.

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PAGE 03 STATE 188645

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAID THE ISRAELIS HAVE INVITED THE AUSTRIAN ARMY TO SEND A MISSION TO INSPECT ISRAELI MANUFACTURED SMALL ARMS, FIRE-CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND OTHER HARDWARE.

ISRAEL HAS ALSO MADE AT LEAST ONE SALE IN THE FAR EAST. DEFENSE SOURCES SAID SOME TIME AGO THAT NATIONALIST CHINA HAD DECIDED TO BUY THE SHAFRIN MISSILE, THE FIRST

FOREIGN SALE OF THIS ISRAELI-MADE WEAPON."

2. IF NECESSARY, GUIDANCE WILL BE PREPARED FOR
SEPTEMBER 24 NOON PRESS BRIEFING AND TRANSMITTED
TO POST BY SEPTTEL. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE188645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LA/CEN:MWCOTTER:AF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730917/aaaaamob.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESS REPORTS SALE OF ISRAELI MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EL SALVADOR AND MEXICO
TAGS: MILI, MASS, XM, MX
To: TEL AVIV SAN SALVADOR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005